ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION & ENQUIRY
Concerning MATTERS
Eccleſiaſtical:
EXHIBITED
To the Miniſters, Church-Wardens, and Side-men of every Pariſh within the
DIOECESE of Saint *DAVID*,
In the Firſt EPISCOPAL VISITATION
OF THE
Right Reverend Father in God
WILLIAM
By Divine Providence
Lord Biſhop of Saint *DAVID*.

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William Lucy

The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-wardens and Sidemen of every Parish.

YOu and every of you, according to your ſeveral Duties by Law required, ſhall make diligent inquiſition, and true preſentment of all things contrary to the Articles in this Book contained, now delivered unto you, without partiality or affection towards man, and with all Reverence and Worſhip given to God, in whoſe moſt holy Name you ſwear. *So help you God, by our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.*

ARTICLES

OF

VISITATION and ENQUIRY.

Within the

DIOECESE of Saint *DAVID.*

TITUL. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

I. ARE your Parish Church, Chappel or Chappels kept in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile or Slate? the Windows well glazed, the Floors well paved, the Seats well fastned, and conveniently placed, and all things so decently ordered, as becometh the House of God?

II. HATH the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto, been imbezelled, sold

or made away? In whose hands or custody doth the same, or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know, or have heard herein.

III. IS there a Font of stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church or Chappel, for the Administration of Baptism? And is there in your Chancel, a decent Communion-table, for the Administration of the Lords Supper; with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen cloth, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen to spread thereupon? And have you a fair Communion-Cup, or Chalice of silver, with a Cover of silver, and one or more Flagons of silver, or pewter, thereunto belonging?

IV. HAVE you in your said Church or Chappel, a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Minister to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same? A Bible of the last Translation, in a large Volume, and the Book of Common-prayer, both well and substantially bound? Have you likewise the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical? And a printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. HAVE you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his Publick Ministration in the Church provided, and to be duly washed at the Charge of the Parish.

VI. HAVE you a Register-book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Sirnames of all such persons as are Married, Christned, or Buried, within your Parish? together with the Names and Sirnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christened, expressing the day, month, and year of all such Christenings, Marriages, and Burials? And is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Month next after the 25 of March, brought into the Bishops Registry?

VII. HAVE you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the names and Licences of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? As also a third Book wherein to write down the Churchwardens Accompts: together with a strong Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all other the aforementioned Furniture in safe Custody? And lastly, have you a Bier, with a black Hearse-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

VIII. HAVE you a Box with a lock and key, fit to receive and keep the Alms of charitable men given to your poor, according to the 84 Canon?

Tit. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes, belonging to the Church.

I. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Rails, or Pales; and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horses, and other Cattel? Hath any person encroached upon the same? or made any door into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been cut down? how long since? by whom? and to whose use and benefit?

II. IS the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, (with all the out-houses thereunto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or, have any of the said Houses, or Out-houses, been defaced or pulled down without licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any person encroached upon any Garden, yard, or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage house? or cut up any Trees growing thereon? or changed or removed the ancient Marks and Bounds of the same?

III. HAVE you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a Note of such Pensions, Rate-tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom; as you know, or have heard?

IV. HAVE any of the ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and licence from the Ordinary? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish, to the detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage, and converting Arable-land into Pasture? by whom hath the same been made? and how many years since? and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage damnified thereby in the yearly value thereof; as you know, believe, or have heard?

Tit. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally Ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of England? If so, let him produce his Orders.

II. IS

II. IS he defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniacal compact?

III. HATH he been legally Instituted and Inducted into his Benefice? and did he within two months after his Induction, publickly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England, established by Authority, without omitting any one, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

IV. HATH he anie other Ecclesiastical Benefice, Prebend, or Dignity? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice amongst you? How manie weeks in anie one year hath he been absent from it without urgent necessity?

V. HATH your Minister a Curate to assist him? Is the said Curate in Holy Orders? an able and discreet person, and conformable to the Lawes and Orders of the Church of England? Is he allowed by the Bishop to serve in your Church or Chappel? and doth he serve in anie other Church beside? and what yearly Stipend doth your Minister allow him?

VI. DOTH your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Childbirth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Commination against impenitent Sinners, use the form and words prescribed in the Book of Common-prayer, without anie addition, omission, or alteration of the same? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book?

VII. DOTH your Minister at the Reading or Celebrating anie Divine Office in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice, together with such other Scholastical Habit as is suitable to his Degree?

VIII. DOTH he observe the Holy-daies and Fasting-daies, as also the Ember weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week, as in the Common-praier Book, or by the Ecclesiastical Canons is appointed? giving notice to the Parishioners of everie of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, upon the Sunday next before?

IX. HATH your Minister been licensed to Preach by the Bishop, or either of the two Universities? If so, Doth he then constantly (unless in case of sickness, necessarie absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself Preach in your Church or Chappel, on Sermon everie Sunday? or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed, be hindred by sickness, or otherwise, as aforesaid; doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher? or

one

one of the Homilies ſet forth by Authority, to be there read by a Prieſt or Deacon lawfully Ordained?

X. DOTH your Miniſter diligently inſtruct the youth of your Pariſh in the Church Catechiſm? and doth he prepare and preſent them, being ſo inſtructed, to be confirmed by the Biſhop? and doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popiſh Recuſants, and other Sectaries, (if anie ſuch be inhabiting within your Pariſh) to the true Religion eſtabliſhed in the Church of England, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Lawes, and ſubmitting to the Government thereof?

XI. DOTH he neglect to viſit the Sick, or delay the Baptiſm of any Infant that is in danger of death? Is there anie Child paſt Infancy, or other perſon of more years, through your Miniſters default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Pariſh? Doth he baptize anie without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

XII. DOTH he in his Sermons preach ſound Doctrine, tending to the edification of the people in the knowledg and faith of Jeſus Chriſt, and obedience to Gods holy Commandments? or hath he at anie time (as you know, or have heard) preached anie Falſe, Heretical, Seditious, or Schiſmatical Doctrine, thereby to ſeduce the people into parties and factions, to the diſturbance of the publick peace and unity either of Church or State?

XIII. HATH he preſumed to Marry any perſons in private houſes? or ſuch as being under age, have not the conſent of their Parents, or without the Bines firſt publiſhed on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church? or at any other hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning; unleſs he had Licenſe or Diſpenſation ſo to do?

XIV. DOTH any perſon preach in your Pariſh as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Biſhop for ſo doing? Doth he before his Lecture read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common-prayer? and is he in all reſpects conformable to the Lawes and Orders of the Church of England?

XV. HATH your Miniſter taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Faſts, Prophecyings or Exerciſes not appointed by Authority? or doth he, or any other, either Miniſter or Lay perſon, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houſes within your Pariſh for people of ſeveral Families to reſort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thankſgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Lawes and Canons in that caſe provided?

XVI. IS your Parſon, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of ſober, unblameable, and exemplary Life? Doth he familiarly converſe

with

with ungodly, vicious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-houses? a common Gamester? a prophane or obscene Jester? a Swearer, Rayler, Scoffer, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at variance one with another? or encourage them to Suits and Contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person, either within your Parish, or without? Doth he wear his hair of an immoderate or uncomely length? Is his apparel grave and decent, both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conversation, in any kind whatsoever, Disorderly or Scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

Tit. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there in your Parish any person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? any Papist, Presbyterian, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker or other Sectary, that refuse to come unto the publick assemblies, prayers, or services of the Church, or that make profession of any other Religion that what is established in the Church of England? and if there be any such, what are their Names?

II. IS there any person in your Parish, that lieth under a common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be raylers, unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of sedition, faction, and discord amongst their neighbours? If so, who are they?

III. DO any of your Parish upon the Sundaies or Holy-daies, follow their bodily and ordinary labour? or permit their servants so to do? are any shops kept open or wares sold? or do any Vintners, Innkeepers, or other Victuallers and sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those daies? Declare the persons so offending, with the times and place.

IV. DOTH every person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish duly resort unto your Church, Chappel or Chappels, upon every Sunday and Holy-day appointed for divine service? Do they then and there abide quietly with reverence, order and decency, during all the whole time of Common-prayer, Preaching, or other service of God there used?

and

and are there any among you that come onely to the Preaching, and not to the Common-prayers of the Church? who are they?

V. DOTH every person reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service and Sermon in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read, making due reverence when the Name of our Lord Jesus is mentioned? Declare who do not, if any such?

VI. ARE there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be baptized publickly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger; in which case, the child may be baptized at home by a lawfull Minister, after the form and rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they send them to be baptized in ante other Parishes, or after other form than is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized anie longer time than the Church alloweth? And are there anie Infants or more aged persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized? If so, declare who?

VII. DOTH every Housholder in your Parish cause their children and servants to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundaies and Holy-daies, as in the Book of Common-prayer is appointed: that when they are well instructed in the same, they may be confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. IS there anie person in your Parish, who being 16 yeares of age, and well instructed in Religion, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the year, of which Easter is alwaies to be one? Doth anie in your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling? or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or are there any Strangers not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it? If there be any such, expresse who they are.

IX. HAVE you any among you that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? And do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved? If so, declare who.

X. ARE there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully married, contrary to the Lawes of God? Or any that being lawfully divorced, have married again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together? if so, expresse their several names.

XI. ARE there any married-women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do

they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom? If there be any such, present them.

XII. ARE there any belonging to your Parish, who refuse to pay their duty for Easter Offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute, and pay the rate assessed upon them, for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such books, furniture and ornaments, as be requisite for the performance of all Divine offices there? If so, who are they?

XIII. DO any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? And are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? Or any goods administred, without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did anie dying in your Parish or elsewhere, leave anie Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the Poor, or to anie other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

XIV. DO you know, or have you heard, of anie Patron, or other person in your Parish, having the presentation or gift of any Ecclesiastical Benefice, who hath made gain thereof by presenting a Clerk or Minister to it upon any bargain, either for money or pension, or lease, reserve of Tithes or Glebe, or any part thereof, or upon other Simoniacal compact whatsoever?

XV. IS there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel without leave from the Ordinary?

XVI. IF any brawl or fight one with another in your Church or Church-yard, present them.

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clarks and Sextons.

I. HAVE you belonging to your Church or Chappelry a Parish-Clark, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services in the Church? Are his wages and customary duties duly paid unto him? or who withholdeth the same from him?

II. DOTH he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the doors of your Church, that they be locked

locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from dust, cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

Tit. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physitians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.

I. IS there any Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-School founded in your Parish? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? and what is the yearly Revenue, or Stipend, belonging to the Governors or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? and are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such Grants and Ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. DOTH any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish who is not allowed thereunto by the Bishop, or his Chancellor? Present such if there be any in your Parish or Chappelry. Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion, set forth by Authoritie? Doth he cause them upon Sundaies and Holidaies orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. DOTH any man in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery, or any woman take upon her to exercise the office of a Midwife, without approbation and license from the Ordinarie? If so name them.

Tit. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Sidemen.

I. ARE the Churchwardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishioners; or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

II. HAVE the former and last Churchwardens given up their due Accompts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-

wardens

wardens the monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. HATH there been diligent care to see who of your Parishioners be absent from the Divine Service and Sermon in your Church or Chappel, upon Sundaies and Holy-daies, and to find who have absented themselves without a sufficient cause? Hath there been by Warrant or Warrants from some of the Justices of the Peace, levied of such Offendors, by way of Distress upon their goods, the sum of 12 pence for everie day of their absence, according to the Act of Parliament in that case provided: And hath the same been distributed among the Poor of your Parish according to the Law?

IV. HAVE they been noted that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? Have any been suffered to stand idle, or talk together in the Church-Porch, or walk in the Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?

V. HATH no misbehaviour or disorder been suffered to be done by men, women, servants, or children, in your Church or Chappel? Hath care been taken, that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion Table? Have no minstrels, no Morris-dancers, no Dogs, Hawks, or Hounds, been suffered to be brought or come into your Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation?

VI. HATH there been provided against everie Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

VII. HAVE all Strangers that preach in your Church or Chappel, subscribed their names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the name of the Bishop that licensed them to preach in this Diocese? and have none other preached?

THe Churchwardens and Sidemen are required to advise with their respective Parsons, Vicars or Curates, concerning their several Presentments, that so they may be regular and direct in answer to the Articles given them in charge.

WILLIAM Saint *DAVID.*